獣の奏者

I

Story Uehashi Nahoko
Art Takemoto Itoe

SKC

Kemono no Souja

I

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Art Takemoto Itoe

Kodansha

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Her fate changes the moment her mother whistles

Erin is an inquisitive ten-year-old living with her mother Sohyon, a [illegible]. One day, however, all the tôda (battle [illegible]) under her mother's care mysteriously die. Soh-yon [illegible] held responsible and tried [illegible]

From Uehashi Nahoko, the author renowned for the **Seirei no Moribito** series, comes this emotionally gripping epic fantasy, with art by Takemoto Itoe!

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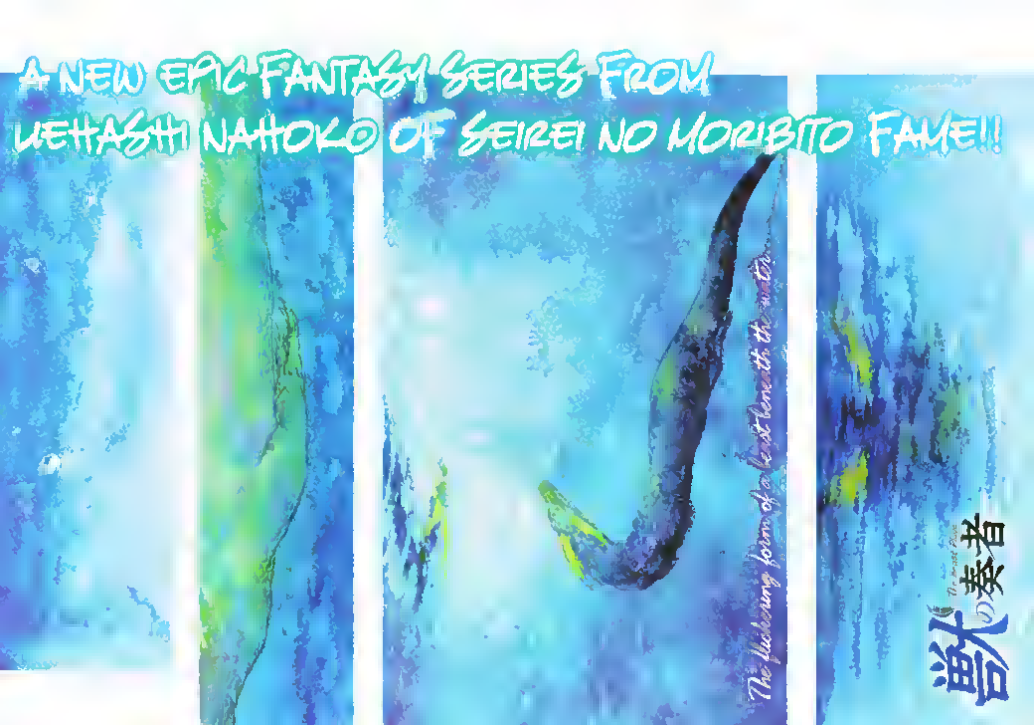
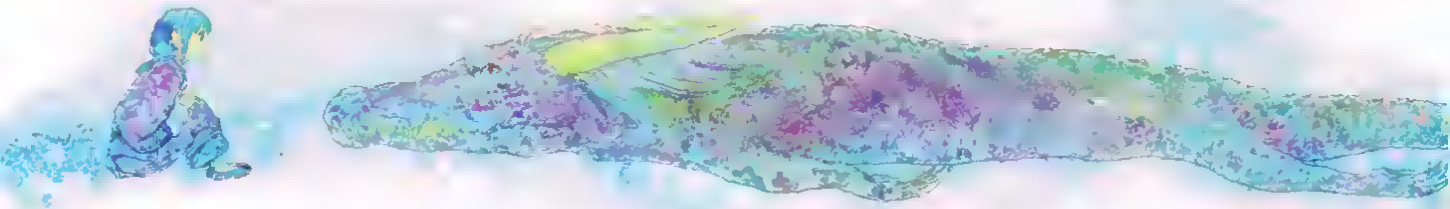
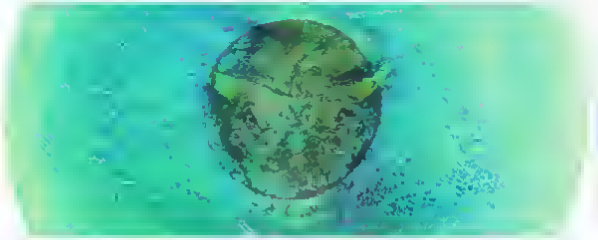
A NEW EPIC FANTASY SERIES FROM
UETAKSHI NAHOKO OF SEIREI NO MORIBITO FAME!!







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COMES A NEW GEM OF A FANTASY SERIES! (Boku to Miraiya no Natsu)
The gears of fate begin to turn for Eren, a girl drawn to the mysterious, ferocious beasts that terrify and entice mankind.
The Beast Player
獣の奏者
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VOLUME 1 - PROLOGUE, PART 1

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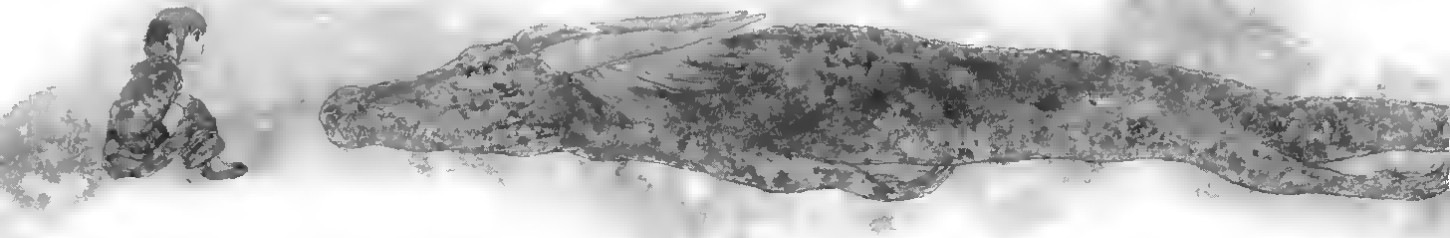
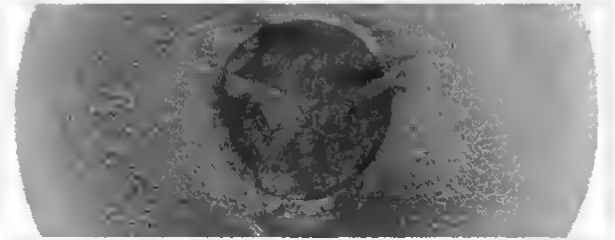
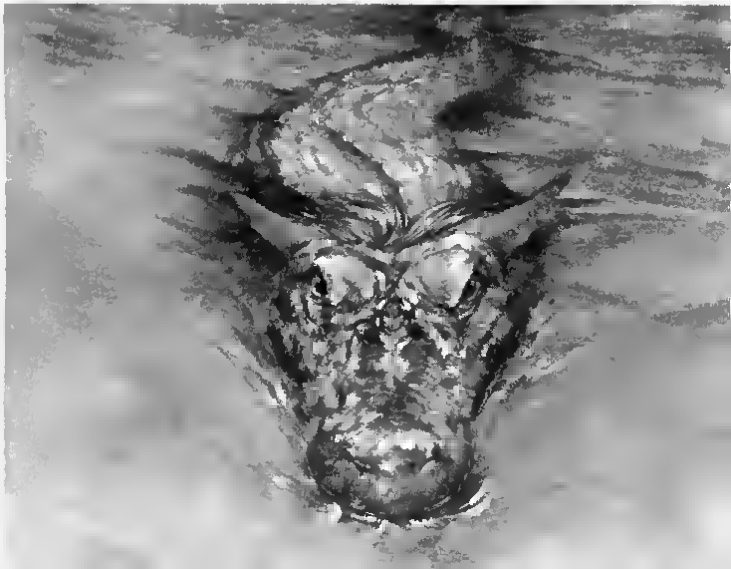


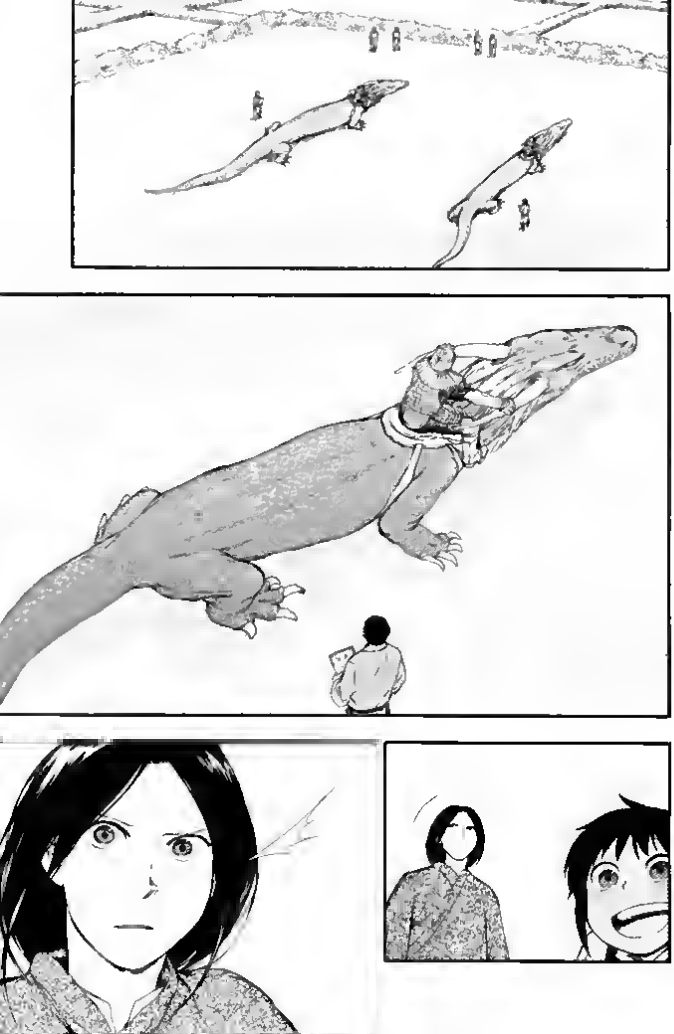




Prologue part 1
The Tohda's Mourning Call

YES, COMING.
HURRY UP, MOTHER!
UH-HUH!
GOING TO SEE THE TOHDA AGAIN?
ERIN,
OH?
TAKE CARE
Hurry! Hurry!
WHAT AN AMUSING CHILD.
OH, MY, DOES SHE LOOK HAPPY

*Literally 'long.' They're the strongest breed of ti-kila



STAY THERE!
Dash
Dash
Dash
?!
MOTHER?
LEAP
?!
WH-
WHAT'S GOING ON?

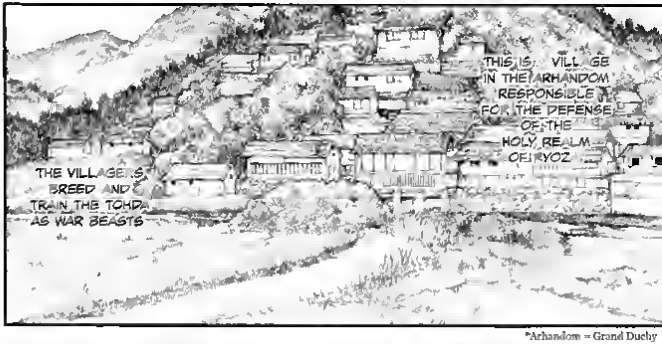
ROAR
WHOA!
!!
Growl

FALL
ドサ
ドサ

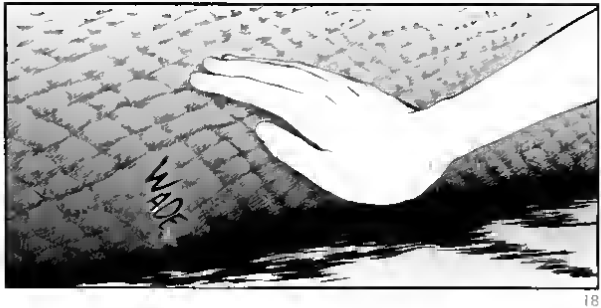
HEY!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
TOO-HAH
...!!
COUGH
I APOLOGIZE!
I
WHAT IF SOMETHING SERIOUS HAD HAPPENED TO THE KIBA?
IDIOT!
ARE YOU HURT?

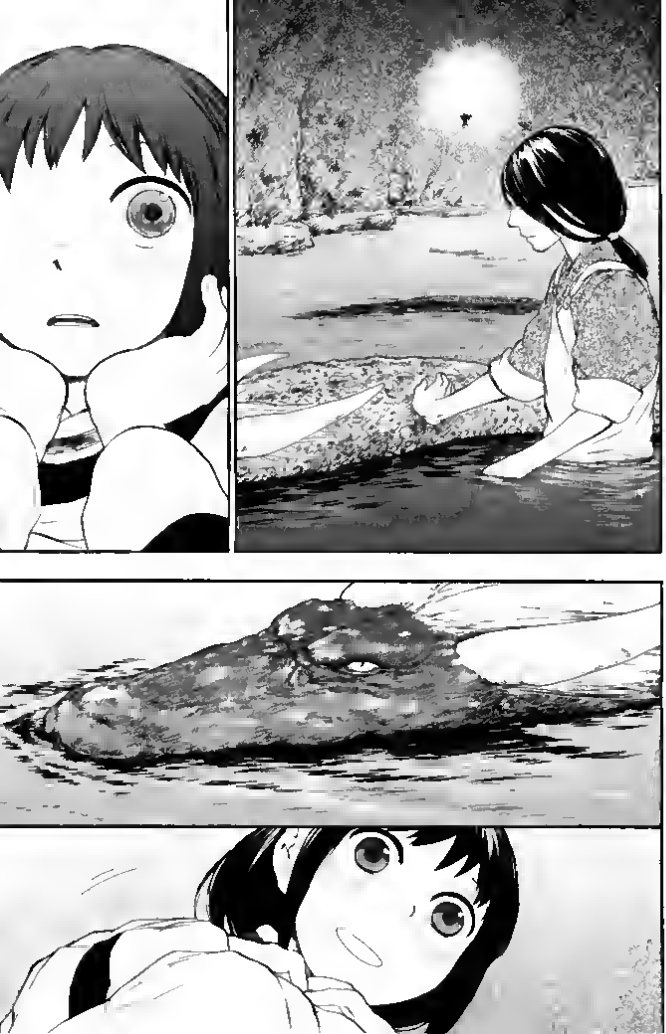
I'M FINE.
NO,
..
YES, MADAM
PLEASE, LET IT REST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY

DASH DASH DASH.
MOTHER!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KIBA?
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY.

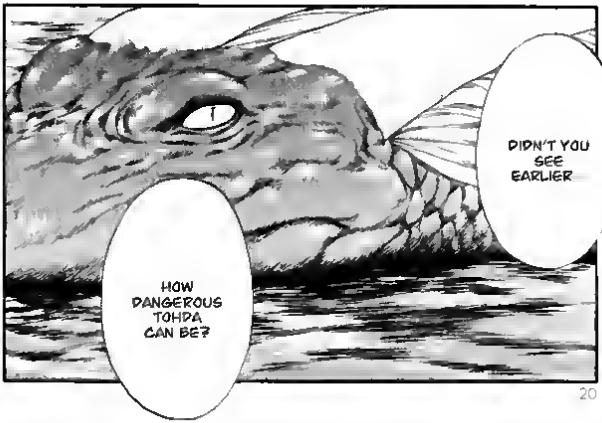

THIS IS VILLAGE IN THE ARHANDOM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE HOLY REALM OF KYOZ
THE VILLAGERS BREED AND TRAIN THE TOHDA AS WAR BEASTS

*Arhandom = Grand Duchy



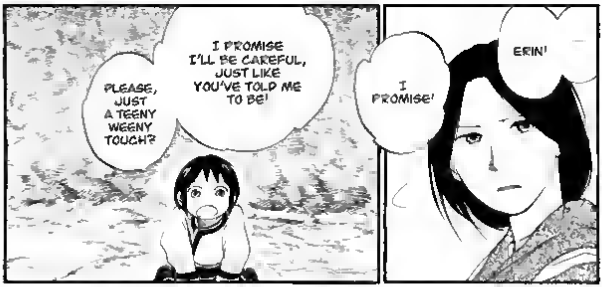


Flinch
ERIN!


DIDN'T YOU SEE EARLIER
HOW DANGEROUS TOHDA CAN BE?

I'M SORRY
AS SOON AS IT SENSES YOU, IT COULD SWALLOW YOU WHOLE
IF YOU APPROACH ONE WITHOUT BEING PREPARED,
WHEN THE HERDSMEN AND SOLDIERS NEED TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THEM
WE ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO USE THIS SOUNDLESS WHISTLE TO NUMB THEIR SENSES
YOU MAY FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE A FAMILIAR SIGHT TO YOU, BUT...
THEY ARE CREATURES NOT MEANT TO BE TAMED.
THEY WILL NEVER BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO MANKIND.

WHEN CAN I TOUCH THEM?
THEN...
...


PLEASE, JUST A TEENY WEENY TOUCH?
I PROMISE I'LL BE CAREFUL, JUST LIKE YOU'VE TOLD ME TO BE!
I PROMISE!
ERIN!

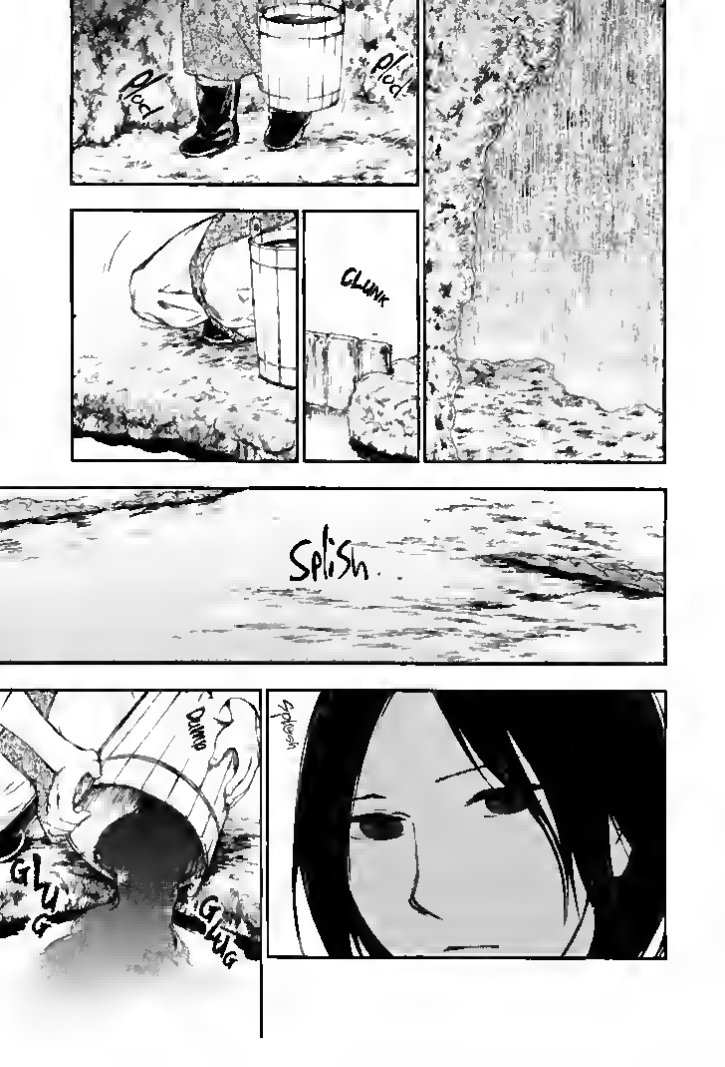
IN SEVEN COLORS...
THOSE SCALES THAT REFLECT LIGHT...
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT THEIR SHINY SCALES WOULD FEEL LIKE...
...

DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT—
CAN I? PLEASE?
—
—
MOTHER?

ONCE YOU'VE GROWN INTO A YOUNG WOMAN...
OF, SAY, FIFTEEN,
IF YOU STILL WANT TO TOUCH THEM THEN...
WE MAY CONSIDER IT.

IT'S TIME YOU WENT HOME.

Dash Dash Dash


Plod
Plod
CLUNK
Splish
Splosh
DUNG
GLUG
GLUG

RUMBLE
Blink
Clap
MOTHER...
WAS THAT THUNDER?

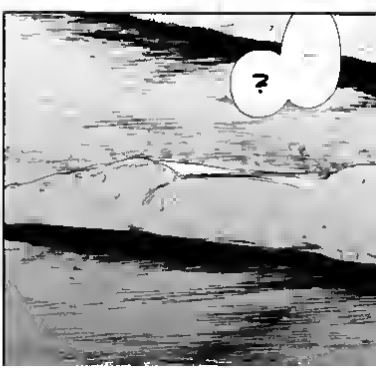
DO THEY SLEEP AT NIGHT, TOO?
SO SWEET... THE SMELL OF THE TOHDA...
DOZE
THE STORM...
IS FAR AWAY, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. GO BACK TO SLEEP.
MOO
ZZZZ

...!
WHAT---
WHAT'S THIS SOUND?
MOTHER!

BUT, MOTHER—
Tap
STAY HERE.
THAT'S ECHOING IN EVERY DIRECTION.
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SHRIEK...
THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE EASTERN CLIFF?
HERDSMEN?

I'M SURE THE SOUND IS COMING FROM THE CAVERN
Huff
Huff

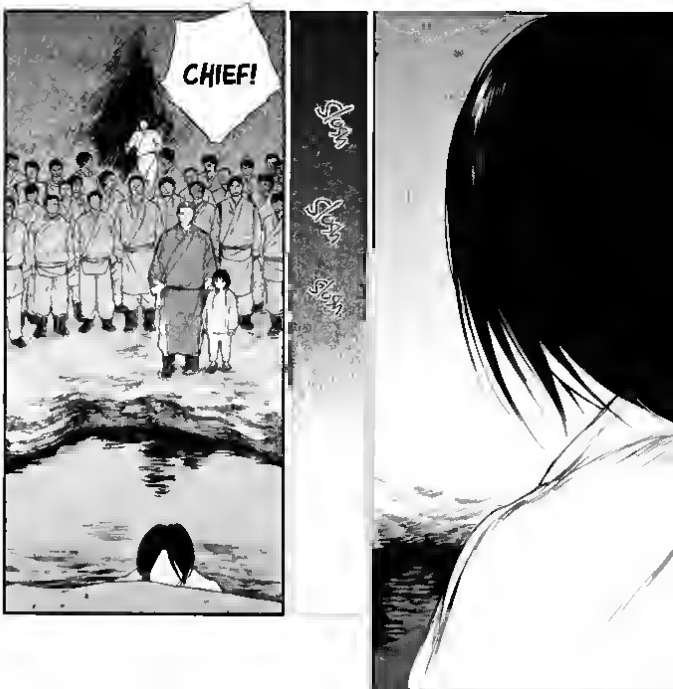
THE KIBA!
!


?

GRAND-FATHER
!
MOTH—
GRAB

IS IT DEAD?

FIVE HEAD...
IN ALL?


CHIEF!
Sloth
Sloth
Sloth

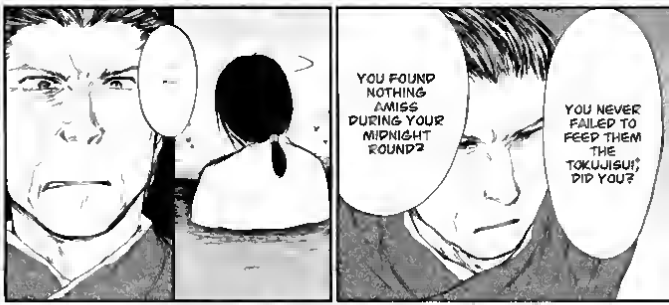
THEY'VE STOPPED THEIR MOURNING, THOUGH THEY'RE STILL THRASHING ABOUT IN THE WATER. OTHER THAN THAT, EVERY-THING IS FINE.
ALL THE DOU* AND THE O** ARE FINE.
WHAT OF THE OTHER TOHDA?
...
CHATTER
THE KIBA IN THE NEXT GROTTO ARE DEAD, TOO!

*Dou = trunk.
**O = tail.

IF THE TOHDA KEEP THAT UP, THEY MIGHT HIT THE WALLS AND INJURE THEMSELVES.
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANOTHER HEAD!
GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED GROTTOES, ALL OF YOU!

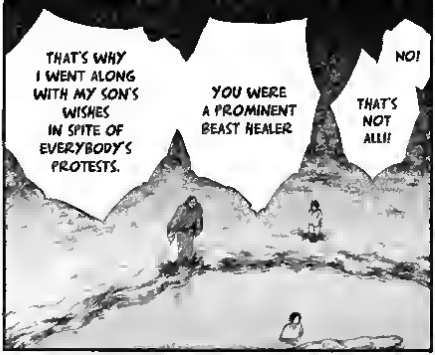
NO.
THE GILLS ARE CLEAN. THE WASHU ONLY CAME NEAR IT AFTER IT DIED.
WAS IT SUFFOCATION FROM WASHU* BUENS?
THAT...
REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

*washu = glowing worms



※ Literally: special nourishment water = a soluti on of herbs given only to Ishi

I AM PREPARED.
PREPARED SOH-YON?!
SEING THE HEAD OF THE HERDSMEN AND YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW
I HAVE TO PREPARE MYSELF AS WELL. DON'T I?
I WILL NO DOUBT BE THE ONE THEY PUT ON THE SPOT!
THEY WILL ASK ME WHY I LET YOU, AN AHRYO, TAKE CHARGE OF THE ARHAN'S TREASURED KIBA!


THAT'S WHY I WENT ALONG WITH MY SON'S WISHES IN SPITE OF EVERYBODY'S PROTESTS.
YOU WERE A PROMINENT BEAST HEALER
NO!
THAT'S NOT ALL!!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ASSON'S LAST WORDS...
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN CARRYING HIS CHILD...

BUT...
TO THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS!
WHEEE
WHEEE

SLUMP

MOTH-
ER...
MOTHER!
FEAR
NOT.

I'LL BE FINE.

HE SAID IT'S A CRIME.
BUT...

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE KIBA DIED.
THE SAME HAPPENED DURING HIS FATHER'S TIME
YOUR GRANDFATHER MAY HAVE SAID THAT, BUT.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT
HOWEVER,
THEY ARE MORE PRONE TO DISEASE
ARE BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER TOHDA.
KIBA.

...

MOTHER,
DOES A TOHDA'S SMELL CHANGE WHEN IT DIES?
OR
WHEN IT GETS SICK?
...?

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THOSE STRANGE WINGED BUGS GO NEAR IT
UM...
WELL...
IT DOESN'T SMELL LIKE IT USUALLY DOES...
WHAT...
MAKES YOU THINK SO?

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS KIND OF BUG IN THE CAVERN
I SEE WASHU IN THE WATER ALL THE TIME,
AND?

SO I FIGURED THE TOHDA MUST HAVE SMELLED DIFFERENT AND ATTRACTED THOSE BUGS
YOU'VE TOLD ME BEFORE, MOTHER
DIFFERENT BUGS GO TO DIFFERENT FLOWERS BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT SMELLS

...

YOU...

ERIN,
KEEP THAT THOUGHT TO YOURSELF.
DO NOT TELL ANYONE.

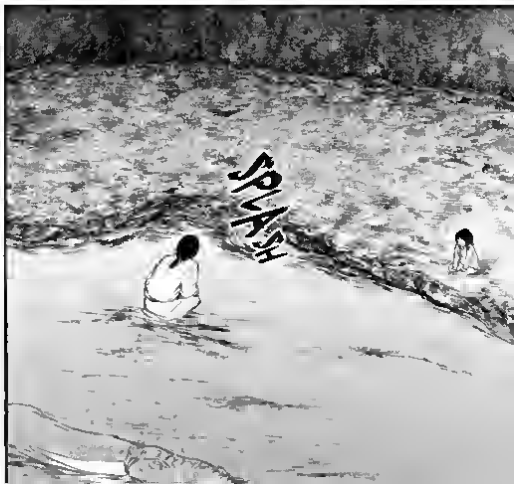
SOME PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS

WHY?

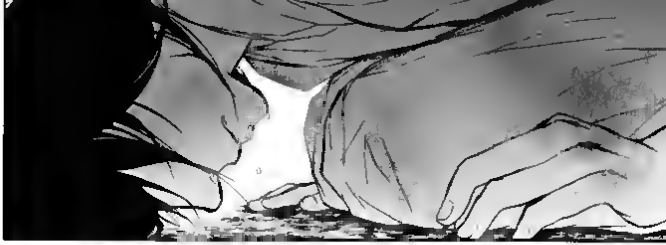
I WOULDN'T MIND THAT
BUT...

THEY MIGHT THINK IT'S A STORY YOU MADE UP TO SAVE ME
AND SCOLD YOU BECAUSE OF IT

Gasp


SPLASH

THANK YOU



Kemono no Ouja